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ANIMALS ON THE FAMILY FARM

GOATS ON THE FAMILY FARM



Chana Stiefel

Enslow Elementary

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KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM, WA

CONTENTS

WORDS TO KNOW

breed—One type of animal in a group.

buck—A male goat.

doe—A female goat.

herd—A group of goats.

hoof—A goat's toe.

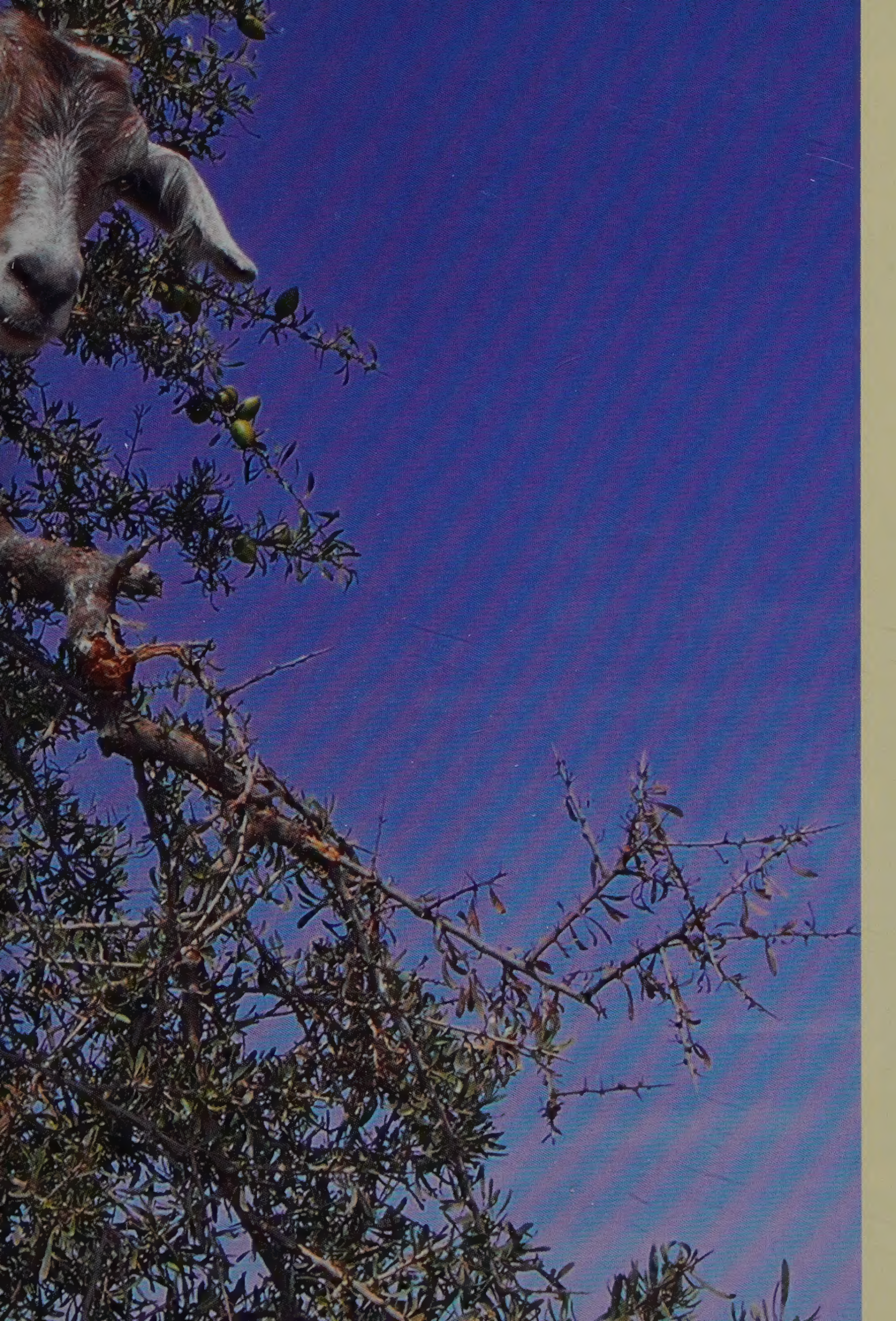
kid—A baby goat.

yearling—A one-year-old goat.

PARTS OF A GOAT







TREE PICNIC

Did you know that goats can climb trees? They also like to eat stems and leaves. Read to find out more fun facts about goats on the family farm.

GOT GOATS?


Tara (with Alice in front), Matt, and Jack are ready for the day.

Matt and Tara raise goats on their family farm. They raise many other animals, too. Their children, Jack and Alice, help take care of the animals.





A group of goats is called a herd.

GOAT FAMILY

A male goat is called a **buck** or billy. A female is called a **doe** or nanny. Baby goats are known as **kids**. A group of goats is a **herd**.



A newborn kid is about the size of a cat.

EATING MACHINES



Hay is dry grass. It is important food for goats in the winter.

Goats share the fields with cows. The goats eat and chew all day. They like bushes, buds, vines, and plant stems. They also eat grass and clover. The goats stay outside all year. In winter, Jack feeds them hay.



Goats spend the day eating lots of grass.



Goats might eat the bark off a tree.

SILLY EATERS

Goats are very curious. Sometimes they eat odd things. “They nibbled wood off the barn!” says Tara. She has to keep the goats away from her garden. They will eat her vegetables and flowers. The goats may even munch on poison ivy plants, but they are not harmed.



Goats nibble with their lips.

JUMP!



Goats' toes are called hooves. Wet hooves can lead to a disease called "foot rot." Matt and Tara make sure their goats graze in drier fields, away from wet, muddy ground.

Goats love to jump and climb. The hard part of the **hooves** protects the foot from sharp twigs and stones. The soft part helps goats leap onto rocks and climb trees. "I've seen goats jump over a five-foot fence!" says Matt.



This goat jumped onto a table!

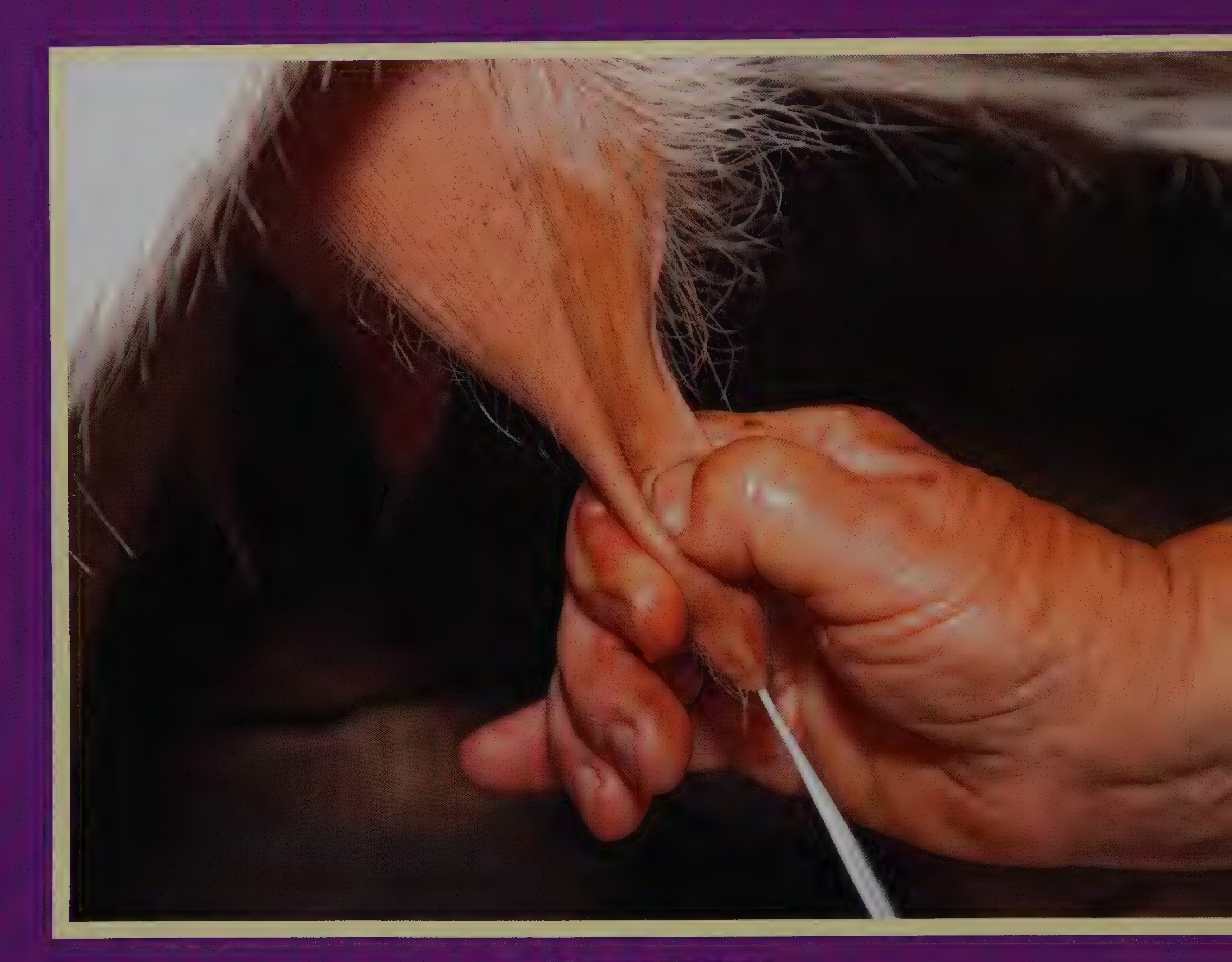


GOAT COATS

Goats come in many colors. They may be white, tan, gray, black, brown, or a mix. Bucks and does look alike, but bucks grow bigger. They both may have beards and horns. The does have udders to give milk.



The buck on the right is a bit bigger than the doe.



A farmer milks a goat.

SAY "CHEESE!"

Each day, Matt milks the does. While Matt is milking, Alice brings the goats seaweed to eat. The seaweed helps the goats stay healthy.

Many people like to drink goats' milk. It looks and tastes a lot like cows' milk.



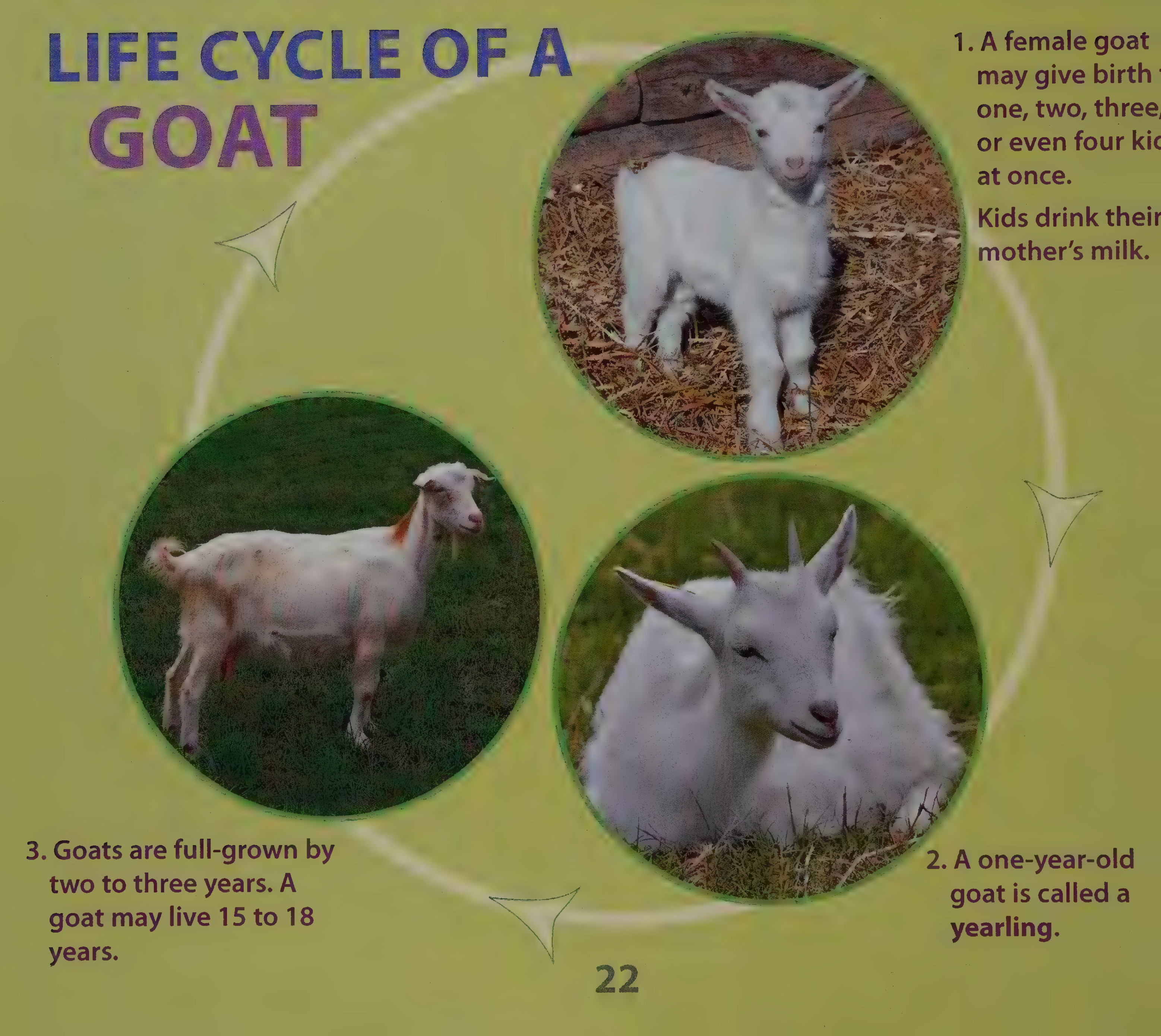
Goats' milk is used to make cheese, yogurt, and butter, too. Some people like goat cheese on a cracker.

MANY KINDS OF GOATS

Not all goats are the same. There are many different **breeds** of goats. French Alpine is one type of breed. Each breed provides different products for people. Which breed do you like best?




Boer,
meat
French Alpine,
milk
Pygmy,
meat and milk



LIFE CYCLE OF A GOAT

1. A female goat may give birth t one, two, three, or even four kic at once.

   Kids drink their mother's milk.

2. A one-year-old goat is called a **yearling**.

3. Goats are full-grown by two to three years. A goat may live 15 to 18 years.

LEARN MORE

BOOKS

Macken, JoAnn Early. *Goats*. New York: Weekly Reader Early Learning, 2010.

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Nelson, Robin. *Goats*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Lerner Publishing Group, 2009.

WEB SITES

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http://www.kidsfarm.com/farm.htm

Smithsonian National Zoological Park. *Kids' Farm.*
http://www.nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/KidsFarm/IntheBarn

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A note from Matt and Tara of Howling Wolf Farm: Howling Wolf Farm grows vital food to feed individuals and families. Products include vegetables, dry beans and grains, dairy, beef, eggs, chicken, lamb, and pork. We work in partnership with nature and people to grow vibrant, abundant food. We farm with an intention of creating a farm and food to bring health, vitality, and enjoyment to our complete beings and the land. We focus on heirloom and open-pollinated varieties, heritage breeds, and wild foods.

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Life on the Farm

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY FARM! GOATS ARE ONE ANIMAL THAT LIVES ON THE FARM. HOW DO THE FARMERS TAKE CARE OF THEM? WHAT DO GOATS EAT? WHO BUYS THEIR MILK? FOLLOW ONE FAMILY FARM AS THEY SHOW THE IMPORTANT STEPS IN RAISING HEALTHY ANIMALS AND HEATLHY FOOD FOR THE PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



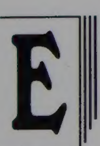
GOATS on the Family Farm



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CHANA STIEFEL has a Master's Degree in Journalism from New York University and has written a wide variety of children's books. While interviewing the family from Howling Wolf Farm, she enjoyed learning many new things about their farm animals and the hard work it takes to make healthy food.

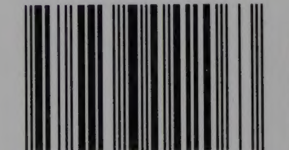
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